



CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

INFORMATION SHEET

The Supreme Court Building: America's Temple of Justice

The Supreme Court of the United States celebrates the 75th anniversary of the construction of the Supreme Court Building with an exhibition commemorating its history and sculptural program. For the first 145 years of the Supreme Court's existence, the head of the third branch of government lacked a permanent home of its own. Since the completion of the building in 1935, it has become a symbol of Justice in America.

Through the use of period photographs and objects relating to the early history of the Supreme Court, visitors will learn about the Court's "temporary" homes in various government buildings, the increasing need for the Court to have a home of its own, and Chief Justice William Howard Taft's role in the construction of the building.

In addition, the exhibition explores the evolution of architect Cass Gilbert's design, as well as the sculptural and symbolic treatment used throughout building's architecture. Several original plaster models aid in the discussion of the symbolism of this iconic building.



Sandra Day O'Connor, First Woman on the Supreme Court

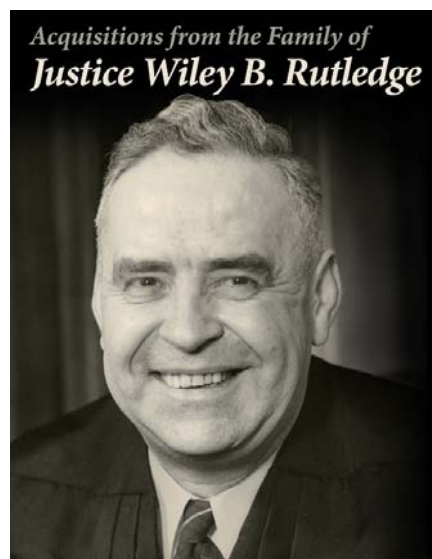


Justice Sandra Day O'Connor was appointed to the Supreme Court by President Ronald Reagan, and served from 1981 until 2006. Beginning with her childhood growing up on her family's ranch, the exhibition recalls her life before joining the Supreme Court, her service and accomplishments on the Court, and her continuing legacy off the Court. Portraits, sculpture and several personal items belonging to Justice O'Connor, including her Bench chair and judicial robe, help illuminate her story

Judicial Issues: Supreme Court Postage Stamps

Since 1894, the United States Postal Service has issued nearly thirty postage stamps featuring Justices, famous advocates before the Court, prominent cases, and the Supreme Court Building. The exhibition highlights the release of four stamps issued in 2009 honoring the contributions of four legal giants - Associate Justices Joseph Story, Louis D. Brandeis, Felix Frankfurter and William J. Brennan, Jr. Oil portraits of each of the Justices accompany the exhibit.





Acquisitions from the family of Justice Wiley B. Rutledge

Wiley B. Rutledge was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1943 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and served until his death in 1949. He was a compassionate humanitarian and is remembered as a teacher, and a judge, who cared deeply about the people behind the law. The family of Justice Rutledge donated 1,260 items to the Collection of the Supreme Court, including photographs, correspondence, and cherished personal memorabilia kept by the Justice. This exhibit highlights items from the donation with which the Justice's life is sketched.

The 1963 Warren Court in Photographs and Sculpture

As public figures, Supreme Court Justices are frequently depicted by artists and illustrators. In this exhibition the works of two such artists, photographer Yousuf Karsh and sculptor Phillip Ratner, are highlighted to portray members of the Warren Court in the early 1960s.

